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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/823,593

Examiner

Ivan H. Carpio

Applicant(s)

MIZUTANI, AKIHIRO

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to election/restriction filed 09/07/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>04/14/04</u>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20061204</u>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of claims 1-13 in the reply filed on 09/07/06 is acknowledged. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 14-17 directed to species 2-7 non-elected. Accordingly, claims 14-17 are cancelled with the applicant's consent established in the telephone interview conducted on 12/05/06.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 [Currently Amended] An electronic control unit comprising: a connector having a lateral surface, a longitudinal surface opposite to the first lateral surface, and a pair of first inclined portions connecting the lateral surface and longitudinal surface, at least one of said first inclined portions being inclined with respect to the first lateral surface at a first angle; a case having a peripheral side portion formed with a concave groove in which the connector is fitted with a clearance portion there between, said concave groove comprising a base surface opposite to the lateral surface of the connector; and a pair of second inclined portions opposite to the first inclined portions, respectively, at least one of said second inclined portions opposite to the at least one of said first inclined portions being inclined with respect to the base surface at a second angle, said second angle being larger than the first angle; and a seal member disposed in the clearance portion between the connector and the concave groove of the case, said seal member sealing the clearance portion there between.

Claim 2 [Currently Amended] An electronic control unit according to claim 1, wherein each of said first inclined portions is inclined outwardly with respect to the first lateral surface at the first angle, and each of said second inclined portions is inclined outwardly with respect to the base surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regards to independent claims 1 and 11 Kobayashi (US Patent 6407925) teaches an electronic control unit comprising a connector having a lateral surface, a longitudinal surface opposite to the lateral surface, and a pair of first inclined portions connecting the lateral surface and longitudinal surface, at least one of said first inclined portions being inclined with respect to the lateral surface at a first angle, a case having peripheral side portion with a concave groove in which the connector is fitted with a clearance portion there between, said concave groove comprising a base surface opposite to the lateral surface of the connector and a pair of second inclined portions opposite to the first inclined portions, also a seal member disposed in the clearance portion between the connector and the concave groove of the case. Kobayashi does not teach that said second inclined portions are inclined with respect to the base surface at a second angle said second ^{angle} ~~angle~~ being larger than the first angle. Furthermore there is no evidence in the prior art making this modification obvious.

PR 12/8/06

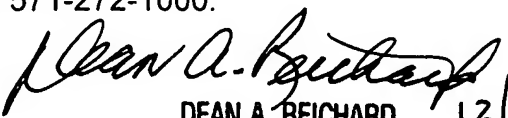
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ivan H. Carpio whose telephone number is 571-272-8396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 6:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


DEAN A. REICHARD 12/8/06
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800